

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5554**

LCO No. 3261

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the
2 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) (1) Each town or regional school district shall be eligible to apply
5 for and accept grants for a school building project as provided in this
6 chapter. Any town desiring a grant for a public school building project
7 may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the board of education of
8 such town to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services
9 and to accept or reject such grant for the town. Any regional school
10 board may vote to authorize the supervising agent of the regional
11 school district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative
12 Services for and to accept or reject such grant for the district.
13 Applications for such grants under this chapter shall be made by the
14 superintendent of schools of such town or regional school district on
15 the form provided and in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner
16 of Administrative Services. The application form shall require the
17 superintendent of schools to affirm that the school district considered
18 the maximization of natural light, the use and feasibility of wireless
19 connectivity technology and, on and after July 1, 2014, the school

20 safety infrastructure criteria, developed by the School Safety
21 Infrastructure Council, pursuant to section 10-292r, in projects for new
22 construction and alteration or renovation of a school building. The
23 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall review each grant
24 application for a school building project for compliance with
25 educational requirements and on the basis of categories for building
26 projects established by the Commissioner of Administrative Services in
27 accordance with this section. The Commissioner of Education shall
28 evaluate, if appropriate, whether the project will assist the state in
29 meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al.
30 v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or the goals of the 2013
31 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al.,
32 as extended. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall
33 consult with the Commissioner of Education in reviewing grant
34 applications submitted for purposes of subsection (a) of section 10-65
35 or section 10-76e on the basis of the educational needs of the applicant.
36 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall review each grant
37 application for a school building project for compliance with standards
38 for school building projects pursuant to regulations, adopted in
39 accordance with section 10-287c, and, on and after July 1, 2014, the
40 school safety infrastructure criteria, developed by the School Safety
41 Infrastructure Council pursuant to section 10-292r. The Commissioner
42 of Administrative Services shall regularly consult with the Connecticut
43 State Data Center at The University of Connecticut to (A) review
44 projected enrollment figures included in grant applications for school
45 building projects, and (B) assist the commissioner in performing an
46 annual regional school capacity assessment that analyzes student
47 enrollment for each school facility in adjacent school districts. The
48 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall share the results of the
49 regional school capacity assessment with each applicant.
50 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the Board of Trustees
51 of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Quinebaug Valley
52 Community College and Three Rivers Community College and the
53 following entities that will operate an interdistrict magnet school that
54 will assist the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and

55 order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or
56 the goals of the 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v.
57 William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, as determined by the
58 Commissioner of Education, may apply for and shall be eligible to
59 receive grants for school building projects pursuant to section 10-264h
60 for such a school: [(A)] (i) The Board of Trustees of the Community-
61 Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical
62 college, [(B)] (ii) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State
63 University System on behalf of a state university, [(C)] (iii) the Board of
64 Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university,
65 [(D)] (iv) the board of governors for an independent institution of
66 higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the
67 equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of
68 higher education, [(E)] (v) cooperative arrangements pursuant to
69 section 10-158a, as amended by this act, and [(F)] (vi) any other third-
70 party not-for-profit corporation approved by the Commissioner of
71 Education.

72 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) A regional educational service
73 center may enter into an agreement with one or more local or regional
74 boards of education to provide administrative services related to the
75 operation and management of the school district to enable such boards
76 to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes. Such
77 agreements may include (1) the sharing of administrative staff, and (2)
78 the provision of administrative services by regional educational service
79 center personnel, such as the management of pupil personnel, data
80 collecting and reporting, financial management and business services,
81 information technology services, monitoring of compliance with state
82 and federal education laws, facilities management, provision of
83 teachers and staff, and other services.

84 Sec. 3. Section 10-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

86 The Department of Education shall encourage the use of regional
87 educational service centers as providers of goods and services for local

88 and regional boards of education and may award special consideration
89 to grant applications that indicate the use of services of regional
90 educational service centers or joint purchasing agreements among
91 boards of education for the purpose of purchasing instructional or
92 other supplies, testing materials, special education services, health care
93 services, [or] food or food services or administrative services.

94 Sec. 4. Section 10-158a of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes
95 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
96 *1, 2016*):

97 (a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to
98 establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations
99 services, programs or activities, special education services, health care
100 services or alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j, to enable
101 such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes.
102 Such arrangements may include the establishment of a committee to
103 supervise such programs, the membership of the committee to be
104 determined by the agreement of the cooperating boards. Such
105 committee shall have the power, in accordance with the terms of the
106 agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of
107 the school districts which have designated the committee an agent for
108 such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to
109 school districts for specified programs, the supervision of which has
110 been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable
111 before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the
112 committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for transportation
113 provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2)
114 receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of such committee
115 by the cooperating school districts, the state or the United States, or
116 given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold
117 title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by
118 the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter
119 into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs,
120 services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee
121 shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to

122 teachers employed by the board of education of any town or regional
123 school district. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall
124 include each professional employee of a committee below the rank of
125 superintendent who holds a regular certificate issued by the State
126 Board of Education and who is in a position requiring such
127 certification.

128 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, any
129 board of education may withdraw from any agreement entered into
130 under subsection (a) of this section if, at least one year prior to the date
131 of the proposed withdrawal, it gives written notice of its intent to do so
132 to each of the other boards. Upon withdrawal by one or more boards
133 of education, two or more boards of education may continue their
134 commitment to the agreement. If two or more boards of education
135 continue the arrangement, then such committee established within the
136 arrangement may continue to hold title to any real or personal
137 property given to or purchased by the committee in trust for all the
138 boards of education which entered the agreement, unless otherwise
139 provided in the agreement or by law or by the grantor or donor of
140 such property. Upon dissolution of the committee, any property held
141 in trust shall be distributed in accordance with the agreement, if such
142 distribution is not contrary to law.

143 (c) If a cooperative arrangement receives a grant for a school
144 building project pursuant to chapter 173, the cooperative arrangement
145 shall use the building for which the grant was provided for a period of
146 not less than twenty years after completion of such project. If the
147 cooperative arrangement ceases to use the building for the purpose for
148 which the grant was provided, the Commissioner of Education shall
149 determine whether (1) title to the building and any legal interest in
150 appurtenant land reverts to the state or (2) the cooperative
151 arrangement reimburses the state an amount equal to ten per cent of
152 the eligible school building project costs of the project.

153 (d) Any cooperative arrangement established pursuant to this
154 section, or any local or regional board of education which is a member

155 of such a cooperative arrangement which transports students to a
156 school operated by such cooperative arrangement shall be reimbursed
157 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-266m. At the end of
158 each school year, any such cooperative arrangement or local or
159 regional board of education which provides such transportation shall
160 file an application for reimbursement on a form provided by the
161 Department of Education.

162 (e) A local or regional board of education that is a member of a
163 cooperative arrangement may, for purposes of reporting expenditures
164 of such board of education pursuant to sections 10-10c and 10-227, as
165 amended by this act, report all expenditures made by such board of
166 education in accordance with the terms of the agreement entered into
167 under subsection (a) of this section as a single total annual expenditure
168 of such board of education. Any local or regional board of education
169 that reports such cooperative arrangement expenditures in a manner
170 prescribed by this subsection shall provide a description of which local
171 or regional expenses were provided, in whole or in part, by the
172 cooperative arrangement and shall not be required to report the
173 specific amount of each such expense.

174 (f) Each cooperative arrangement shall annually file an independent
175 public school financial report, in a manner similar to section 10-227, as
176 amended by this act, that includes information related to expenses for
177 the activities described in subsection (a) of this section.

178 Sec. 5. Section 10-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the
179 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

180 Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make
181 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner
182 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed
183 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions
184 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required
185 by the commissioner no later than December thirty-first of each year
186 following the September submission. Each board of education that is a
187 member of a cooperative arrangement, pursuant to section 10-158a, as

188 amended by this act, shall cause the superintendent to make a report
189 not later than September first of each year to the commissioner of the
190 expenditures under the cooperative arrangement, as described in
191 subsection (e) of section 10-158a, as amended by this act, provided
192 each such board may submit revisions to the report in such form and
193 with such documentation as required by the commissioner not later
194 than December thirty-first of each year following the September
195 submission. Such reports or returns required shall be made in
196 accordance with the instructions furnished by the commissioner, shall
197 be certified no later than December thirty-first of each year by the
198 independent public accountant selected pursuant to section 7-392 for
199 the purpose of auditing municipal accounts, and shall be subject to
200 Department of Education verification. If the returns and statistics and
201 revisions called for by said commissioner are not sent on or before the
202 days specified in this section or if the returns are not certified as
203 required by the commissioner on or before December thirty-first, each
204 local and regional board of education required by law to make
205 separate returns, whose returns and statistics or revisions are delayed
206 until after those days, shall forfeit of the total sum which is paid for
207 such board of education from the State Treasurer an amount to be
208 determined by the State Board of Education, which amount shall be
209 not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars.
210 The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a subsequent grant
211 payment as determined by the commissioner. Notwithstanding the
212 penalty provision of this section, the Commissioner of Education may
213 waive said forfeiture for good cause.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-283(a)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-66o
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-158a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-227